



*Consulate General of the United States of America*

Draft Press Release

Jerusalem

For Immediate Release

**U.S. Consulate Helps Palestinian Law Students Shine on the International Stage,  
Invests in Palestinian Justice Sector**

Over the last two days Palestinian law students from six West Bank universities competed in Ramallah at the Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition – the largest moot court competition in the world with over 550 participating universities in over 80 countries. With support from the U.S. Consulate General in Jerusalem, the two leading teams will travel to Washington, D.C. on March 27 to compete against their peers from all over the world. Young Palestinians from the Arab American University in Jenin, Birzeit University, Hebron University, An-Najah University, Palestine Ahliya, and Al Quds University presented arguments in front of a panel of judges to prove their oral advocacy, critical thinking, research, and legal writing skills.

U.S. Deputy Consul General Dorothy Shea served as a judge on one of the panels and said, “You cannot build foundations of a state without the rule of law, and these young Palestinians are the future of the Palestinian legal system. This year, we invested over \$16 million in the Palestinian justice sector because we understand that rule of law is the bedrock of strong law enforcement and flourishing society.”

In the awards ceremony today, the panel of final round judges announced the team from Hebron University won the competition with Al-Najah University team taking second place. The ten Hebron and Al-Najah Universities’ Palestinian law students that make up those teams demonstrated their intellect in the moot court competition which is a simulation of a fictional dispute between countries before the International Court of Justice, the judicial organ of the United Nations. From here, they will travel to the United States to compete with young attorneys from all over the world for the chance to bring

home the Jessup Cup – a trophy engraved with the names of all winners since the beginning of the competition.

2016 marks the 57<sup>th</sup> edition of the Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition and the fourth year in which Palestinian students competed.

*For more information please contact the Consulate General Press Office at 02-622-6909*

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